

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 5-8 are herein amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 was objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

Claim 6, as amended, recites that “the diffuse reflectance of the surface provided with an aluminum layer without primer coating is not higher than 2.0%”, but claim 8, as amended, recites that “the diffuse reflectance of the surface provided with an aluminum layer without primer coating as measured after 10 hours of treatment at 150°C is not higher than 3.0%”.

The heat treatment feature of claim 8 is not a feature of claim 6. The heat treatment feature of claim 8 further narrows the claim from which it is dependent from, claim 6. Moreover, heat treatment may affect the diffuse reflectance. For example, heat treatment may decrease surface gloss. See present specification, pages 1 and 2.

Therefore, claim 8 is described in proper dependent form. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 6-8 are herein amended. In view of the herein presented amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 2001/088035 to Suzuki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,647,650 to Sasaki et al and claims 1, 2 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,583,208 to Suzuki (hereinafter referred to as Suzuki '208) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,647,650 to Sasaki. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The presently claimed invention relates to a polyester resin composition which comprises a polyalkylene terephthalate resin having an acid value of not higher than 30 $\mu\text{eq/g}$ and a layered compound.

The polyalkylene terephthalate resin has a low acid value not exceeding 30 $\mu\text{eq/g}$, by which the generation of low-molecular substances due to degradation upon melt processing is suppressed, and the crystallization promoting and shrinkage inhibiting effects of the layered compound finely dispersed therein, are combined together, so that the surface gloss can now be maintained at high levels even upon long-period exposure to elevated temperatures. See present specification, page 24, line 28-page 25, line 1. This is an unexpected feature of presently claimed invention, which may be achieved by the combination of the low acid value and the layered compound.

On the other hand, Suzuki '139 discloses a polyester resin composition comprising a thermoplastic polyester resin and a polyether compound-treated layered material having layers respectively exfoliated by one another. The object of Suzuki '139 is to provide a polyester resin composition capable of providing moldings well balanced among physical characteristics with suppression of reduction in strength of moldings.

Sasaki discloses a process for producing polyester comprising an ethylene terephthalate repeating unit, which comprises producing an oligomer having an intrinsic viscosity $[\eta]$ of not more than 0.4 dl/g and a carboxyl terminal group concentration of not more than $90X[\eta]^{-0.4}$ $\mu\text{eq/g}$, feeding the oligomer to a final polymerization reactor, heating, dispersing and polymerizing the oligomer in the form of fine molten particles. The object of Sasaki is providing a process for rapid polymerization of polyester having a high intrinsic viscosity.

Suzuki '208 discloses a polyester resin composition comprising a thermoplastic polyester resin and a silane-treated foliated phyllosilicate. The object of Suzuki '208 is to provide resin molded articles having improved flexural properties, deflection temperature under load and dimension stability.

It is acknowledged in the Office Action that neither Suzuki '139 nor Suzuki '208 discloses the acid value of the polyester resin being not higher than 30 $\mu\text{eq/g}$. Neither Suzuki '139 nor Suzuki '208 disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for achieving this feature of the presently claimed invention.

Moreover, Sasaki only describes that the ester oligomer, which is a material used for producing a polyalkylene terephthalate resin, has an acid value of 11 $\mu\text{eq/g}$. Sasaki does not disclose the acid value of a polyalkylene terephthalate resin. As disclosed in the present specification, the acid value tends to increase during polymerization. Thus, Sasaki does not disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for the acid value of the polyalkylene terephthalate resin being not higher than 30 $\mu\text{eq/g}$.

Furthermore, Sasaki discloses a polyester having a high intrinsic viscosity by using an oligomer having a specific intrinsic viscosity and carboxyl terminal group concentration. However, Sasaki does not disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for the generation of low-molecular substances due to degradation upon melt processing being suppressed by using the polyalkylene terephthalate resin having a low acid value of not higher than 30 $\mu\text{eq/g}$.

Suzuki '139, Suzuki '208 and Sasaki do not disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for the acid value of the polyester resin being not higher than 30 $\mu\text{eq/g}$, either independently or in combination with one another.

Moreover, none of the cited references disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for the surface gloss being maintained at high levels even upon long-period exposure to elevated temperatures by the combination of the low acid value and the layered compound, which is an unexpected feature of the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, the presently claimed invention would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention from the combined disclosure of any of the above references.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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